

Town Meeting of the Dublin Darlington Community Council
April 25, 2012
Darlington Volunteer Fire Company

Attendance: 32

Rich Norling, Chair of the Dublin Darlington Community Council (DDCC), called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. He thanked the DVFC for use of the meeting space.

Update on 2012 Legislative Session

Rich Norling, Billy Boniface, Barry Glassman

The State legislators ran out of time on passing a State budget mainly due to gambling issues surrounding the Casino Bill. The so called "Doomsday Budget" that automatically fell into place will result in massive spending cuts. However, at least one, and maybe two special sessions are likely to address budget issues at the State level. Timing of these decisions impacts Harford County's budget deadlines as potential cuts to State aid are pending. Rich Norling, newly appointed Trustee to Harford Community College, stated that \$1 million will cut be from State aid to education if the budget is not revised. He thanked Barry Glassman for his effort in getting two bills passed for higher education in Harford County.

The legislature did get some things accomplished in favor of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay through the Septic Bill which increases the "flush fee." Now sewage treatment plants will be better able to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from effluent.

Citizens may contact [Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.](#), *Senate President* (410) 841-3700 and [Michael E. Busch](#), *House Speaker* (410) 841-3800, with their concerns.

Billy Boniface, President of the Harford County Council, noted that the County Charter dictates a timeline for budget procedure. The biggest issues are the Waste Transfer Facility and rebuilding EEOC. Property tax income is flat and will stay flat for the foreseeable future. Basically, revenue will stay flat despite a small increase in income tax.

There is some good news on the Capital side for Parks and Rec. Darlington Park still has funding for two fields once changes are made to the road. Scheduled completion is fall of 2014. The project at Route 136 and Route 1 is on hold. A new boating ramp will be constructed at Broad Creek after Labor Day.

Barry Glassman, State Senator District 35A, anticipates a special session beginning on May 14 to consider, among other things, income tax and teacher pensions. Gaming issues will be put off to a special session in August. He commented on changes to septic regulations that will be affected by the newly passed Septic Bill.

Sheriff's Office Northern Precinct Commander Captain Keith Warner
Harford County Sheriff Jesse Bane

Residential burglaries are the biggest problem but are not exclusive to the area. It's a problem all over the County. In most cases, the victim knows the burglar and many crimes are solved here. This is not so in other sectors where more serious

burglaries are happening during night time break-ins. Power tools and equipment are stolen from unlocked garages and sheds in our area. Please lock up.

A prescription drug take back day is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 from 10am-2pm, in two locations. Please take this opportunity to get rid of unused medications, no questions asked.

The Sheriff's Office has scheduled quarterly Town Hall Meetings to maintain a dialog with the public. The next one will be on April 28 in the southern precinct. A northern precinct meeting is planned for fall.

New initiatives focus on the traffic problems in Harford with a Traffic Task Force made up of the State Police, Sheriff's Office, three municipalities and the JFK Barracks in Baltimore County. The Safe Streets program will concentrate on getting violent offenders off the streets. Violent offenders commit 90% of the crime. Harford County will be one of five pilot projects. DDACTS, Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety, looks for patterns in certain crimes and gang activity.

The Community Policing Office in Darlington can be reached at 410-638-3713. Go to www.harfordsheriff.org for more information.

Harford County Center for the Arts
Sallee Kunkel Filkins

Finally, Sallee Kunkel Filkins gave a presentation on the proposed Cultural Arts Center to be built on the Graham estate in Abingdon. A Feasibility Study has been completed and a Needs Assessment has been completed. Now a Master Plan and Conceptual Design are nearing completion. Fundraising has been ongoing, with the major fundraiser being the annual Dancing for the Arts event. The website is www.CenterForTheArtsHarford.org. Sallee can be reached at 410-838-2177 or info@centerfortheartsharford.org.

OPEN FORUM

Blueberry Festival – Saturday, July 14
Hosanna School Museum events in Darlington – flyer for distribution
Ugly Waitress Dinner – DVFC – Saturday, April 28

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howe, Secretary